



4-H Leader Recognition Program

.....
November 15, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Bear Lake Resort & Campground, Manawa

Welcome	4-H Leaders' Board
Introduction of Guests	Penny Tank
Pledge of Allegiance & 4-H Pledge	2025 4-H Graduates
Dinner	
Recognition of 4-H Graduates	Awards and Recognition Committee
Key Award Acknowledgment	Waupaca County Farm Bureau
4-H Leaders' Association Scholarships	Awards and Recognition Committee
Friend of 4-H Award	Wisconsin Workers 4-H Club
Volunteer of the Year Award	Awards and Recognition Committee
Salute to Excellence Volunteer Award	Awards and Recognition Committee
Distinguished Service Award	State Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara
Recognition of 4-H Leaders	Awards and Recognition Committee
Silent Auction Ends	
Closing Remarks & Door Prizes	

BANQUET COMMITTEE —Sandy Knoll, Tri-County, Wolf River Rascals

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Gloria Bigalke, Deb Desens, Dawn Nelson, Dorothy Paider, Deb Schneider, Jim Zemple, Janet Wiechert

4-H LEADERS' ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Amanda Pockat
Vice President	Sara Knoespel
Secretary	Karen Acker
Treasurer	Jenny Heise
Past President	Mike Much
District I Representatives:	Sarah Burmeister and Stacy Havlik
District II Representatives:	Virginia Zemple and Gloria Zemple
District III Representatives:	Amy Korth and Lora Korth
District IV Representatives:	Sue Berrig and Janet Wiechert
District V Representatives:	Sommer Peterson and Wayne Acker
Youth Representatives:	Kylie Heise and Hailey Burmeister

EXTENSION WAUPACA COUNTY OFFICE STAFF

4-H Youth Development:

Penny Tank	4-H Program Educator
Haley Nelson	Program Assistant
Jeremy Solin	Extension Waupaca County Area Director
Alicia Utke	Human Development and Relationships Educator
Amy Ebert	Community Development Educator
Christi Gabriliska	FoodWise Coordinator



2025 “FRIEND OF 4-H”

Waupaca County 4-H is happy to award the 2025 Friend of 4-H Award to Kevin Oertel.

Although Kevin Oertel is no longer a leader in 4-H, and his children being older, Kevin is making a positive impact. Kevin understands with his help, Wisconsin Workers 4-H club can have a successful fundraiser. Rain or shine, Kevin helps every year with the Manawa Rodeo pick up.

Kevin helps Cloverbuds and older club members with their woodworking or beef projects. Kevin has shown Wisconsin Workers 4-H club leaders and youth various teamwork skills and how to be selfless. Kevin has also helped club leaders develop leadership skills, which have helped them in their role. Kevin Oertel shows how to successfully work with youth and create a positive environment for Wisconsin Workers 4-H club.

Thank you so much for your support of Waupaca County youth and 4-H!!

“FRIEND OF 4-H” PAST RECIPIENTS

2024	VFW Post 63 of Clintonville	2017	Jennifer Lamers-Sommer
2023	A. Sturm & Sons Foundation	2016	Weyauwega Star Dairy
2022	Medina-Dale-Readfield Lions	2015	Dale Fire Department
2021	Sarah Tischauser, Marion Advertiser	2014	Dr. John Fountain, DVM
2020	Dr. Alan Wegenke and staff at the Clintonville Veterinary Hospital	2013	Duane Abrahamson
2019	Art Ebbinger	2012	Union Star Cheese Factory
2018	Lisa Jensen	2011	Clintonville Elevator
		2010	Cindy Hardy, Lind Center Greenhouse

“FRIEND OF 4-H” PAST RECIPIENT (continued)

2009	McCain Foods	1991	Grace Kirchner
2008	Bowers Feed & Grain	1990	Waupaca County Bankers Assoc.
2007	Radtke Dobberstein Auctions	1989	Radtke Real Estate
2006	Walker Forge, Inc.	1988	Ted Erdman
2005	Terry Mares, Mares Produce	1987	Grant Scheller
2004	Festival Foods of New London	1986	Duane Schultz & Valley Bank
2003	Bruce Hoeft	1985	Evan Thoma
2002	First National Bank of Weyauwega	1984	School District of Manawa
2001	Bruce Grassman, WJMQ	1983	Hub Moore
2000	Maynard Sordahl	1982	Victor Struck
1999	Carley Auction Service	1981	Scott Turner
1998	Farm Credit Services	1980	Dairyland Animal Health
1997	New London Press-Star	1979	Marvin Timm
1996	Sherry's Ceramic Giftland	1978	Bud Brown
1995	Gary Onan	1977	Niemuth's Steak & Chop Shop
1994	Drath's Sewing Center	1976	Edward Smith
1993	St. Paul's Lutheran Church	1975	Carol Much
1992	Bob & Jan Niemuth	1974	Virginia Bowersox

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

2024	Sylvia Ramirez (under 10 years)	2017	Angela Eidenberger (under 10 yrs)
2024	Ted Bigalke (11-20 years)	2016	Ruthanne Schroeder (11-20 years)
2023	Maggie Strebis (under 10 years)	2016	Karen Zarling (under 10 years)
2023	Wayne Acker (11-20 years)	2015	Julia Olsen (under 10 years)
2022	Julia Olsen (11-20 years)	2015	Mark Moser (11-20 years)
2022	Jordana Umnus (under 10 years)	2014	Richard & Ann Wehrle
2021	Karen Acker (11-20 years)	2013	Sarah Burmeister
2021	Amanda Zehner (under 10 years)	2012	Mary Kirchner
2020	Garrett Knoespel (11-20 years)	2011	David Bork
2020	Michelle Backes (under 10 years)	2010	Ray Spiegelberg
2019	Melissa Fischer (11-20 years)	2009	Bernice Abel
2019	Ted Bigalke (under 10 years)	2008	Janice Popple
2018	Sara Knoespel (11-20 years)	2007	Cindy Bigalke
2018	Jessica Arndt (under 10 years)	2006	Genny Corwin
2017	Kathy Manske (11-20 years)	2005	Gloria Behm

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

2024 Karen Acker	2010 Neil & Diane Schmidt
2023 Michael Much	2009 Carol Magolski
2022 Kathleen Manske	2008 Bill & Deanna Stinemates
2021 David Bork	2007 Dave Magolski
2020 Denise Schultz	2006 Lynn Zirbel
2019 Kari Riley	2005 Phyllis Bartel
2018 Myrtle Kutchenriter	2004 Deb Schneider
2017 Jennifer Heise	2003 Orin Zirbel
2016 Deb Desens	2002 Mary Kautz
2015 Lois Fischer	2001 Virginia Zemple
2014 Gladys Fleck	2000 Vera Frederick
2013 Dorothy Paider	1999 Duane & Delores Bork
2012 Dawn Nelson	1998 Arnie & Helen Heise
2011 Gloria Behm	1997 Tina Auer



2025 4-H GRADUATES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CLUB</u>	<u>YEARS IN 4-H</u>
Abbey Acker	Sandy Knoll	13
Carolynn Backes	Sandy Knoll	9
Trinity Bestul	Peterson Mill	12
Calleigh Beyer	Friendly Valley	9
Lucas DeCoster	Tri- County	14
Ethan Eidenberger	Sandy Knoll	12
Hannah Fischer	Lind Center Beavers	12
Breann Giauque	Country Pride	8
Brooklyn Grimm	Country Pride	11
Victoria Havlik	Woodland Badgers	7
Connor Jones	Dayton Community	12
Allison Knoespel	Sandy Knoll	13
Lilianna Liegl	Dayton Community	10
Alex Loehrke	Lind Center Beavers	12
Jenna Olson	Lind Center Beavers	12
Ethan Ruppel	Sandy Knoll	7
Sterling Van Straten	Woodland Badgers	6

4-H VOLUNTEER LEADERS

BALDWINS MILL (Royalton)

Genevieve Corwin	23	Kalena Lodahl	1
Amber Curtis	21	Katie Balthazor	1

CASEY LAKE (Waupaca)

Kari Riley	32	Michelle Krisher	4
Thomas Riley	29	Gina Strobusch	3
Michelle Orr	22		
Ashley Bonikowske	7		
Aimee Postel	7		
William Postel	7		

COUNTRY PRIDE (Weyauwega)

Delores Bork	54	David Bork	27
Duane Bork	54	Angelica Johnson	11
Debra Schneider	47	Elisha Barnett	7
Dorothy Paider	40		
Dawn Nelson	37		
Dean Schneider	33		
Denise Schultz	28		

DAYTON COMMUNITY (Waupaca)

Haley Nelson	14	Heather Newton	2
Richard Nelson	14	Brooklyn Butzin	1
Michelle Minton	12		
Nicole Hahn	8		



FRIENDLY VALLEY (Manawa)

Virginia Zemple	49	Melissa Fietzer	4
Ronald Zemple	42	Brian Moericke	3
James Zemple	35		
Gloria Zemple	31		
Craig Fietzer	5		

KROSSING CREEKS (Clintonville/Bear Creek)

Cynthia Schuelke	3
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LEBANON CEDARS (New London)

Angel Drozd	13	Rudy Drozd	2
Amy Korth	12	Lora Korth	2
Michael Korth	12	Evy Drozd	1
James Drozd	11	Cristina Wanner	1
Lacy Raisler	8	Sarah Wenner	1
Adam Raisler	7		

LIND CENTER BEAVERS (Weyauwega)

Susan Berrig	18	Marcy Farkas	7
Rebecca Loehrke	15	Keyara Marg	6
Mark Handrich	13	Cynthia Dietzler	5
Lisa Handrich	11	Rhonda Ortner	1
Tina Attoe	7	Isabelle Dietzler	1

NORSEMAN (Iola)

Miranda Pomerence	4	Randall Ambacher	1
Lorin Weinmann	3		
Janet Wiechert	3		
Tammy Pomerence	2		

PETERSON MILL (Scandinavia/Iola)

Karri Bestul	43	Jordan Bestul	2
Connie Bestul	20	Chris Henschel	2
Sommer Peterson	8		
Dan Peterson	4		

SANDY KNOLL (New London)

Helen Heise	49	Amy Eckelberg	16
Arnold Heise	48	Emily Magolski	15
Carol Magolski	39	Julia Olsen	15
David Magolski	38	Ted Bigalke	13
Gloria Bigalke	35	Jared Manske	12
Gladys Fleck	34	Mikayla Wehrle	11
Jennifer Heise	29	Michelle Backes	9
Daniel Heise	28	Shaun Cunningham	8
Kathleen Manske	27	Margaret Strebig	8
Sara Knoespel	26	Amanda Zehner	8
Karen Acker	22	Megan Stueck	4
Wayne Acker	22	Katie Oberstadt	2
Candith Hoewisch	21	Kyle Oberstadt	2
Garrett Knoespel	21	Jodi Strube	1
Jim Magolski	21	Francesca Swim	1
Angela Eidenberger	17	Maria Homier-McNamee	1
Ann Wehrle	17	Rebecca Fitton	1
Richard Wehrle	17		

SUNRISE (Marion)

Deb Desens	32	Sarah Roe	4
Amanda Haufe	4		

TOWN & COUNTRY (Manawa)

Joni Steingraber	29	Ashley Gustafson	1
Sue Johnson	26	Samatha Konitzer	1
Marcy Wentworth	19	Angela Keegan	1
Anya Bonikowske	6		

TRI-COUNTY (Fremont/Weyauwega)

Wendy Fisher	19
Jordana Umnus	6
Stacey Boelter	4

WISCONSIN WORKERS (Manawa)

Michael Much	34	Holly Marquardt	2
Cindy Much	32	Erikka Flowers	2
Lisa Wettstein	20	Ryan Marquardt	1
Amanda Pockat	11	Andy Huettl	1
Sylvia Ramirez	5	Nicole Schachtschneider	1
Emily Huettl	4	Joe Wettstein	1
Emerald Wopshel	3	Cheryle Schultz	1
Sara Andersen	3	Laura Suesse	1
Duane Much	2		

WOLF RIVER RASCALS (New London)

Mark Moser	26	Pamela Moe	4
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WOODLAND BADGERS (Clintonville)

Mary Kautz	46	Christina Froh	7
Pamela Fenn	30	Rachel Ritchie	5
Linda Kirchner	22	Stacy Havlik	3
Crystal Retzlaff	22	Amanda Van Straten	2
Sarah Burmeister	21	Bart Van Straten	2
Paul Kirchner	20		
Jason Burmeister	19		
Karen Zarling	16		
Amy Zempel	13		
Austin Retzlaff	10		

LEADERS AT LARGE

Linda Crushinski	47
Bart Moericke	30
Linda Poth	29
Donna Danke	23
Annette Spieth	23
Mia Janke	22
Deb Robbins	15
Bobbie Jo Montgomery	12
Colleen Rae	12
Wyatt Kersten	5
Sara Timm	3



Please remember to thank the Award Sponsors:
4-H Leaders Association
Waupaca County Farm Bureau—Key Award
State Legislature—Distinguished Service

Volunteers who have been 4-H leaders for 20 or more years are invited to share some information about their involvement & interests. We hope you enjoy reading the following highlights:

49-Years (Virginia)

42-Years (Ronald)

Ronald and Virginia Zemple

Virginia is General Leader for the Friendly Valley 4-H Club and is also a project leader. Virginia is on the 4-H Leaders' Association Education Committee and helped with the Record Book Committee. Virginia helped create the General Leader Manual and the Waupaca County 4-H Family Guide. Virginia serves on the 4-H Leaders' Board, sold plat book ads, works in the 4-H food stand at the fair, checked record books at the county level and helped at Farm Technology Days and rodeo clean-up. Virginia enjoys working with the 4-H members and leaders, seeing them learn and achieve their goals. She also likes working at the county level and helping at Super Saturday.

She received a WAE4-HYDP Communication Award in 2000 for her help on the Family Guide. She also received the Distinguished Service Award in 2001. Virginia attended the 2007 North Central Region Volunteer Forum in Milwaukee and the 2020 online Wisconsin 4-H Fall Forum. When she was in 4-H, Virginia received many 4-H project awards and was State Fair Clothing Revue representative for Waupaca County. She also received the WBAY award.

Ronald is a project leader for the Friendly Valley 4-H Club. He was on the Leaders' Board for four years, was President of the Leaders' Association, has worked in the 4-H food stand, Farm Technology Days, fundraising committee and rodeo clean-up. Ronald received awards for being a 4-H leader for 5-42 years. He served as a church elder and trustee.

Ronald and Virginia have 5 children who all graduated from 4-H, Heather, Wendell, Heidi, Melody and Kendell; and 9 grandchildren. They are members of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Manawa and both are greeters there.

49- Years (Helen)

48 -Years (Arnie)

Helen and Arnold Heise

Arnie and Helen are 4-H leaders and 4-H grandparents involved with Sandy Knoll 4-H Club. They enjoy many club activities, the favorite being the Waupaca County Fair observing 4-H members of Sandy Knoll, all other 4-H club members, and grandchildren show the projects they have spent many hours working on through the year. As parents and leaders, you remember the days of summer preparing entries for the fair. They have carefully selected, fed, cared for, and walked their project animals daily from a very young age until the animals are ready for sale and market. We enjoy strolling through the youth building to observe the finished projects they have worked on all summer. These projects teach skills 4-H members will use in their future.

Arnie and Helen are members of Emanuel Lutheran Church in New London and Waupaca Co Farm Bureau. Gardening is a joint adventure each summer. As well as preserving the fruits and vegetables, by canning and/or freezing and sharing with neighbors and family. Helen is a member of Pieceful Hands Quilt Guild and HCE. Together they enjoy their family pet, Gracie, high school sports and summer baseball. 4-H has definitely been a family favorite for many years.



35-Years (Gloria)

Gloria Bigalke

Gloria Bigalke is very much involved in 4-H for the past 35 years. She is an activity leader with the Sandy Knoll 4-H Club. She helps with the Community Valentine Soup and Sandwich meal in February, the Easter Egg Hunt, blanket drive and Caledonia Fest selling ice cream cones. She had served as the Secretary for the Waupaca County 4-H Leader's Association. You can see her clerking for Exploring and Drawing and Painting and works long hours in the 4-H Food Stand during the Waupaca County Fair.

Gloria is the current New London Site Manager for Home Delivered Meals. We have three routes in New London. She is in charge of her volunteer kitchen staff and her route deliverers. Gloria also had worked for about 48 years at Thrivent Financial (AAL) in various positions.

Gloria is a member of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church in Readfield. She is with the Wolf River Circuit for Lutheran Women Missionary Society. She has gone to many international LWMS trips throughout the United States and this year she went to Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Gloria and her husband Ted like to go camping, play Bingo and go on bus trips. This year they went to Alaska and Colorado. They are planning to go to Shipshewana in December to see some Christmas shows.

During the summer months, you can see Ted and Gloria around Eagle River. They help with a strawberry farm picking and selling strawberries, honey berries and blueberries at the farm markets in Rhinelander and Eagle River on weekends.

Gloria has two children, Sara Knoespel and Paul Behm. She has five grandchildren and likes to go to their sport's games, especially soccer games.

Gloria likes to go to the 4-H meetings and enjoys the demonstrations and how the younger and older 4-H members work together. She also enjoys going to the fair and seeing the projects Sandy Knoll 4-H members did.

34-Years

Gladys Fleck

Gladys had another wonderful year with the Sandy Knoll 4-H Club and the Waupaca County 4-H Leaders Association. This year she helped with the Town of Dale Halloween event, Christmas luncheon and wrapping gifts, made valentine cookies and other bakery items. She also helped with the club's annual Easter Egg Hunt. In addition, she helped clerk at the Waupaca County Fair and worked at the foodstand. Gladys finished her term as a District Representative for the 4-H Leaders Association.

This year Gladys went on several tours: to Alaska, Oklahoma, and the state of Colorado, in which, Gladys visited many state parks and national monuments. She is retired but helps her son with farm chores and volunteer work with church and the community nutrition site.

Gladys enjoys seeing the beautiful and creative projects the kids worked hard on during the year for the fair. She would like to encourage parents and leaders to continue promoting 4-H youth leadership.

32– Years (Kari)

29– Years (Tom)

Kari & Tom Riley

Kari and Tom have served the local and county 4-H in several capacities. They have been club leaders in rabbit, dairy, goat, swine, cats, home environment, Cloverbuds and exploring. Kari is the third generation general leader for Casey Lake 4-H. Kari continues to be involved in the county dairy project. They are involved in the Waupaca County 4-H Goat project and the Small Market Animal committee.

Tom and Kari have 4 children who have graduated from the 4-H program: Ethan, Elisha, Everlah and Elwood. Auroara and Ember are active members. “It's all about the kids”, our success is measured by what youth have accomplished. I am proud of the many children, not just our own, we have helped encourage, raise and nurture through the 4-H program. Watching members mature and gain leadership skills is rewarding, knowing 4-H will always be an impact on their success in life!

27-Years

Kathy Manske

Kathy began her 4-H involvement as a Cloverbud leader for the Sandy Knoll 4-H Club. She has served as a music and drama, dairy and foods leader. She continues to help deliver soup to the elderly for the club's yearly community service project. She served one year on the Leaders Board and helped with the Activity Committee and Super Saturday for many years. In 2017, she received the Volunteer of the Year award. In 2022, she received the Distinguished Service award.

Kathy and her husband, Matt, dairy farm full time in New London. Their son, Jared, is the 6th generation on Manske Family Farms. They also run Manske's Market, selling produce and meat off the farm. Their daughter, Amy, and her husband, Jon, live near Fremont with their son's Caden and Cole. Kathy is also active in Waupaca County HCE. She also takes time to spread cheer and acts of kindness in memory of her late granddaughter, Chloe.

26-Years (Sara)

21-Years (Garrett)

Garrett and Sara Knoespel

Sara grew up in the Waupaca County 4-H program and went directly from club member to club leader. She has been a Sandy Knoll General Leader for 15 years focusing on growing leaders and community service volunteers. Last year, the club had 62 members and 35 leaders.

Garrett was part of Brown County 4-H as a child. Once he met Sara, she encouraged him to chaperone 4-H Winter Camp with her and he has been a leader ever since. His project areas are aerospace and bicycle.

Sara is the Vice President of the Waupaca County 4-H Leaders' Board, Education Committee Representative for Small Market Animal, an Ambassador Advisor, and the Exploring Superintendent for the Waupaca Co Fair. Chaperoning summer camp is Sara's favorite 4-H volunteer activity that she assists with annually. In 2018, Sara received the Waupaca County Volunteer of the Year Salute to Excellence award and in 2019 she received the Wisconsin 4-H Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Award.

(continued)

Sara works fulltime as an Associate Financial Representative at Northwestern Mutual in Appleton. Garrett works for Diebold Nixdorf as a Senior Service Technician. Sara and Garrett just celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary in September. They have 2 kids, Allie (Sophomore in college at Stevens Point) and Grant (12th grade). Their family is busy with many 4-H events, their pets, and soccer games. They belong to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Greenville. Overall, they feel that 4-H is the most well-rounded family friendly youth organization that kids can join.

21- Years

Sarah Burmeister

I am a product of the Waupaca County 4-H Program. I never left Woodland Badgers 4-H Club as one may say. I went from a club member to a club leader. Currently I am a co-general leader of the Woodland Badgers 4-H Club. Watching youth grow in their spark is something that I thrive on. Some of the activities that I participate in are serving on the education committee, working with the Cloverbuds and dairy project members, and I serve as an ambassador advisor.

I currently work for the Clintonville Public School District. My husband Jason and I have a dairy herd made up of 60 cows. We have four children Hailey 10th grade, Bryce 6th grade, Owen 3rd grade, and Simon 1st grade. Our family is very busy with 4-H activities, sports, and taking care of our animals. We are members of St. Martin's Lutheran Church of Clintonville.

4-H is an organization that holds a special place in my heart. It has provided me with many opportunities. I hope to instill this compassion to the many youth that join this organization.

20- Years

Lisa Wettstein

I am a project leader for the Cloverbuds, Home Environment, and sewing. I have been a leader for 20 years and have been with Wisconsin Workers 4-H club for 10 years. I am very involved with my great nieces and nephews in 4-H projects or activities. Super Saturday is one of my favorite 4-H activities to do with my family.



2024 Banquet Photos

**THANK YOU
4-H VOLUNTEERS!**



Thank you to the volunteers who have
made contribution to the 4-H community!

WISCONSIN 4-H CROSSWORD



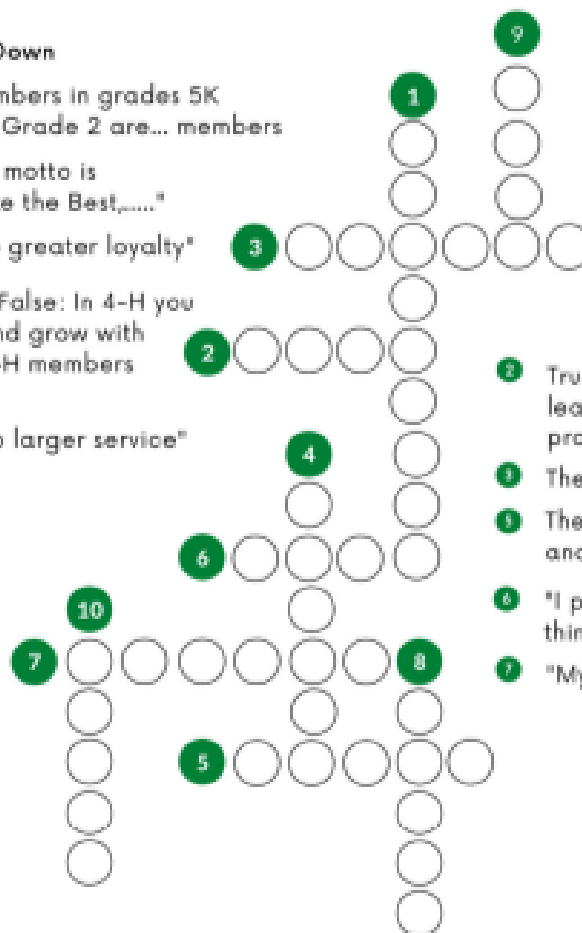
Answer the questions and fill in the crossword with the correct answers.

Down

- 1 4-H members in grades 5K through Grade 2 are... members
- 4 The 4-H motto is "To Make the Best,...."
- 8 "My... to greater loyalty"
- 9 True or False: In 4-H you learn and grow with other 4-H members
- 10 "My... to larger service"

Across

- 2 True or False: In 4-H you learn through exploring projects
- 3 The 4-H emblem is the ...
- 5 The 4-H colors are white and....
- 6 "I pledge my... to clearer thinking"
- 7 "My... to better living"



Answer Key:
1) Cloverbud 2) true 3) clover 4) better 5) green 6) head 7) health 8) heart 9) true 10) hands

4-H PROJECT WORD SEARCH

You can discover new skills through 4-H projects!
Look for the 4-H projects listed below.

A	F	E	R	D	J	G	D	G
R	R	Z	R	T	N	A	A	P
K	V	T	D	I	L	R	N	I
C	Z	Z	H	E	D	Z	C	H
U	L	S	G	E	Q	S	E	S
Y	I	O	N	N	T	W	P	R
F	S	I	T	N	L	I	T	E
H	N	D	E	H	S	N	B	D
G	S	G	O	D	I	E	H	A
I	C	A	M	P	I	N	G	E
A	R	C	H	E	R	Y	G	L

Archery
Clothing
Fishing

Art
Dance
Swine

Legos
Dogs
Leadership

Camping
Gardening



4-H PLEDGE

I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking,
my **HEART** to greater loyalty,
my **HANDS** to larger service,
and my **HEALTH** to better living,
for my club, my community,
my country, and my world.



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